



FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Information Collection Activities

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: 30-day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (Board) gives notice that it is requesting from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reinstatement without change of the seven previously approved collections described below.

Comments are requested concerning each collection as to (1) whether the particular collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, when appropriate.

DATE: Written comments are due on June 11, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be identified as "Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board," and should refer to the title of the specific collection(s) commented upon. These comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention:

Patrick Fuchs, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer, by fax at (202) 395-5167; by mail at Room 10235, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20500; or by email at OIRA_SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection(s) send your request to accounting_and_reporting@stb.dot.gov or call Paul Aguiar at (202) 245-0323. [Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: (800) 877-8339.]

SUBJECTS: In this notice the Board is requesting that comments be sent to OMB on the following information collections:

COLLECTION NUMBER 1

Title: Class I Railroad Annual Report

OMB Control Number: 2140-0009

Form Number: R1

Type of Review: Reinstatement without change of previously approved collection

Respondents: Class I railroads

Number of Respondents: 7

Estimated Time Per Response: No more than 800 hours, based on information provided by the railroad industry during the 1990's. This estimate includes time spent reviewing instructions; searching existing data sources; gathering and maintaining the data needed; completing and reviewing the collection of information; and converting the data from the carrier's individual accounting system to the Board's Uniform System of Accounts (USOA), which ensures that the information will be presented in a consistent format across all reporting railroads, see 49 U.S.C. 11141-43, 11161-64, 49 CFR 1200-1201.

Frequency of Response: Annual

Total Annual Hour Burden: No more than 5,600 hours

Total Annual “Non-Hour Burden” Cost: No “non-hour cost” burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: Annual reports are required to be filed by Class I railroads under 49 U.S.C. 11145. The reports show operating expenses and operating statistics of the carriers. Operating expenses include costs for right-of-way and structures, equipment, train and yard operations, and general and administrative expenses. Operating statistics include such items as car-miles, revenue-ton-miles, and gross ton-miles. The reports are used by the Board, other Federal agencies, and industry groups to monitor and assess railroad industry growth, financial stability, traffic, and operations, and to identify industry changes that may affect national transportation policy. Information from this report is also entered into the Board’s Uniform Rail Costing System (URCS), which is a cost measurement methodology. URCS, which was developed by the Board pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 11161, is used as a tool in rail rate proceedings, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 10707(d), to calculate the variable costs associated with providing a particular service. The Board also uses this information to more effectively carry out other of its regulatory responsibilities, including: acting on railroad requests for authority to engage in Board-regulated financial transactions such as mergers, acquisitions of control, and consolidations, see 49 U.S.C. 11323-11324; analyzing the information that the Board obtains through the annual railroad industry waybill sample, see 49 CFR 1244; measuring off-branch costs in railroad abandonment proceedings, in accordance with 49 CFR 1152.32(n); developing the “rail cost adjustment factors,” in accordance with 49 U.S.C.

10708; and conducting investigations and rulemakings.

Information from certain schedules contained in these reports is compiled and published on the Board's website, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. <http://www.stb.dot.gov/>

Information in these reports is not available from any other source.

COLLECTION NUMBER 2

Title: Quarterly Report of Revenues, Expenses, and Income - Railroads (Form RE&I)

OMB Control Number: 2140-0013

Form Number: None

Type of Review: Reinstatement without change of previously approved collection

Respondents: Class I railroads

Number of Respondents: 7

Estimated Time Per Response: 6 hours

Frequency of Response: Quarterly

Total Annual Hour Burden: 168 hours

Total Annual "Non Hour Burden" Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection is a report of railroad operating revenues, operating expenses and income items; it is a profit and loss statement, disclosing net railway operating income on a quarterly and year-to-date basis for the current and prior years.

See 49 CFR 1243.1. The Board uses the information in this report to ensure competitive, efficient, and safe transportation through general oversight programs that monitor and forecast the financial and operating condition of railroads, and through regulation of railroad rate and service issues and rail restructuring proposals, including railroad

mergers, consolidations, acquisitions of control, and abandonments. Information from these reports is used by the Board, other Federal agencies, and industry groups to monitor and assess industry growth and operations, detect changes in carrier financial stability, and identify trends that may affect the national transportation system. Some of the information from these reports is compiled by the Board in our quarterly Selected Earnings Data Report, which is published on the Board's website, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. <http://www.stb.dot.gov/> The information contained in these reports is not available from any other source.

COLLECTION NUMBER 3

Title: Quarterly Condensed Balance Sheet - Railroads (Form CBS)

OMB Control Number: 2140-0014

Form Number: None

Type of Review: Reinstatement without change of previously approved collection

Respondents: Class I railroads

Number of Respondents: 7

Estimated Time Per Response: 6 hours

Frequency of Response: Quarterly

Total Annual Hour Burden: 168 hours

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden" Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection shows the balance (quarterly and cumulative) for the current and prior year of the carrier's assets and liabilities, gross capital expenditures, and revenue tons carried. See 49 CFR 1243.2. The Board uses the information in this report

to ensure competitive, efficient, and safe transportation through general oversight programs that monitor and forecast the financial and operating condition of railroads, and through specific regulation of railroad rate and service issues and rail restructuring proposals, including railroad mergers, consolidations, acquisitions of control, and abandonments. Information from these reports is used by the Board, other Federal agencies, and industry groups to assess industry growth and operations, detect changes in carrier financial stability, and identify trends that may affect the national transportation system. Revenue ton-miles, which are reported in these reports, are compiled and published by the Board in its quarterly Selected Earnings Data Report, which is published on the Board's website, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. <http://www.stb.dot.gov/> The information contained in these reports is not available from any other source.

COLLECTION NUMBER 4

OMB Control Number: 2140-0004

Title: Report of Railroad Employees, Service and Compensation (Wage Forms A and B)

Form Number: None

Type of Review: Reinstatement without change of previously approved collection

Respondents: Class I railroads

Number of Respondents: 7

Estimated Time Per Response: No more than 30 hours per quarterly report and 40 hours per annual summation.

Frequency of Response: Quarterly, with an annual summation

Total Annual Hour Burden: No more than 1120 hours

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden" Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens associated with

this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection shows the number of employees, service hours, and compensation, by employee group (e.g., executive, professional, maintenance-of-way and equipment, and transportation), of the reporting railroads. See 49 CFR 1245. The information is used by the Board to forecast labor costs and measure the efficiency of the reporting railroads. The information is also used by the Board to evaluate proposed regulated transactions that may impact rail employees, including mergers and consolidations, acquisitions of control, purchases, and abandonments. Other Federal agencies and industry groups, including the Railroad Retirement Board, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Association of American Railroads, use the information contained in the reports to monitor railroad operations. Certain information from these reports is compiled and published on the Board's website, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. The information contained in these reports is not available from any other source.

COLLECTION NUMBER 5

Title: Monthly Report of Number of Employees of Class I Railroads (Wage Form C)

OMB Control Number: 2140-0007

Form Number: STB Form 350

Type of Review: Reinstatement without change of previously approved collection

Respondents: Class I railroads

Number of Respondents: 7

Estimated Time Per Response: 1.25 hours

Frequency of Response: Monthly

Total Annual Hour Burden: 105 hours

Total Annual “Non-Hour Burden” Cost: No “non-hour cost” burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection shows, for each reporting carrier, the average number of employees at mid-month in the six job-classification groups that encompass all railroad employees. See 49 CFR 1246. The information is used by the Board to forecast labor costs and measure the efficiency of the reporting railroads. The information is also used by the Board to evaluate the impact on rail employees of proposed regulated transactions, including mergers and consolidations, acquisitions of control, purchases, and abandonments. Other Federal agencies and industry groups, including the Railroad Retirement Board, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Association of American Railroads, use the information contained in these reports to monitor railroad operations. Certain information from these reports is compiled and published on the Board’s website, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. The information contained in these reports is not available from any other source.

COLLECTION NUMBER 6

Title: Annual Report of Cars Loaded and Cars Terminated

OMB Control Number: 2140-0011

Form Number: Form STB-54

Type of Review: Reinstatement without change of previously approved collection

Number of Respondents: 7

Estimated Time Per Response: 4 hours

Frequency of Response: Annual

Total Annual Hour Burden: 28 hours

Total Annual “Non Hour Burden” Cost: No “non-hour cost” burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection reports the number of cars loaded and cars terminated on the reporting carrier’s line. See 49 CFR 1247. Information in this report is entered into the Board’s URCS, the uses of which are explained under Collection Number 1.

There is no other source for the information contained in this report.

COLLECTION NUMBER 7

OMB Control Number: 2140-0001.

Title: Quarterly Report of Freight Commodity Statistics (Form QCS)

Form Number: None

Type of Review: Reinstatement without change of previously approved collection

Respondents: Class I railroads

Number of Respondents: 7

Estimated Time Per Response: 217 hours

Frequency of Response: Quarterly, with an annual summation

Total Annual Hour Burden: 6,076 hours annually

Total Annual “Non-Hour Burden” Cost: No “non-hour cost” burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection, which is based on information contained in carload waybills used by railroads in the ordinary course of business, reports car loadings and total revenues by commodity code for each commodity that moved on the railroad during the reporting period. See 49 CFR 1248. Information in this report is entered into the Board’s URCS, the uses of which are explained under Collection Number 1. There is no

other source for the information contained in this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA, a Federal agency conducting or sponsoring a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Under the PRA and 5 CFR 1320.8, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-day notice and comment period through publication in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: May 7, 2012.

Jeffrey Herzig

Clearance Clerk

[FR Doc. 2012-11272 Filed 05/09/2012 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 05/10/2012]